

Lunenburg Council on Aging Meeting Minutes *Minutes Approved at the 9/13/11 COA Meeting*
August 16, 2011

Present: Pete Lincoln (Chairperson), Mary Lynn Conrad (Vice Chairperson), Doreen Noble (Director), Barbara Brown, Fred Crellin, Jane Doyle, Sandy Flanagan Sis Montuori, Deb Seeley, Joyce Wass, and Susan Doherty (Admin. Asst.)

Excused: Jim Hays

Guest: Lloyd Carlson, President Friends of the Eagle House Inc.

Welcome: Pete Lincoln, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to accept the June 14, 2011 COA meeting minutes as presented. All approved, motion carried.

Director's Report:

Finance/Informational Report: There was no Finance/Information Report for this month.

Doreen apologized for the delay in the start of this meeting. She explained that the hot water heater which is located in the upstairs utility room had broken in July and flooded the offices, bathrooms, and janitor's closet. Work has begun on repairing the walls and carpets in these areas and due to this fact activities and office personnel have to be juggled around which makes it confusing at times.

All programs with 10 or more participants have been cancelled until the work is complete due to the fact that there is only 1 bathroom available to the public to use.

The completion of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs annual report and formula grant has also been delayed due to the water heater upheaval.

There have been questions about the new hours of operation for the Eagle House senior center, whether they are just for summer or will they be permanent. Doreen explained that this is a permanent change and that they were put in place for the "younger" senior citizen who perhaps is still working and may need assistance later in the day.

During the heat wave in July the Eagle House was designated as a "cooling station" for the town for two days. The first day, which was a Thursday, there were no calls from the public for assistance, although the center remained open until 7PM. The next day the Director had a sick day and told the staff that if there were no calls for assistance, then close the center at the normal hour of 12:30PM, and that she would be on call with the Lunenburg Fire Dept dispatcher.

A sixty-one year old woman called 911 at around 1PM and said she needed assistance. Doreen arrived to find the person at the center. The person did not seem extremely distressed and was more interested in what kind of "senior services" she could receive. The person stayed until 5:40PM.

Doreen has decided to develop "guidelines" for staying open later for these types of situations. She feels that there needs to be a "real" concern about the health of an individual in order to justify using the center for a cooling station.

Old Business:

Parking Lot: The Block Grant for the Eagle House parking lot/housing rehab in Lunenburg was denied by the Department of Housing and Community Development. All concerned parties who have been involved with this project have been notified.

The Council on Aging members strongly wish to continue pursuing this project and will look into developing different avenues to help this come to completion.

There is an immediate concern with the parking situation as it stands. School will be open soon and the students, who do not want to pay for parking at the school, tend to take up all of the spots in the municipal lot above the senior center. The idea of using Friends of the Eagle House parking funds to build two stair cases with railings at the upper municipal lot, which would lead down to the Eagle House, were discussed. If this were to happen, the town would be approached to place signage with parking restrictions in that lot, and the existing spots at the Eagle House lot would then become handicapped only.

New Van Update: Doreen received a letter from MART stating that the new van has arrived and as soon as paperwork is completed it will be ready for delivery to us.

The title for the old van will be turned over to the Town of Lunenburg and will be operated under the auspices of the Council on Aging. COA board member Jane Doyle suggests that all agreements with MART concerning the two vans should be received in writing and kept on file at the Eagle House.

Volunteer Appreciation Day: Due to the water heater issues and the bathroom shut downs it was decided to change the date of the Volunteer Appreciation Day to Tuesday September 27, 2011. Mary Lynn Conrad was thanked for the grill which Conrad's Restaurant had donated to the Eagle House Senior Center.

Reminder New Hours for Eagle House: Discussed under Director's Report.

New Business:

RMV Reminder Service: Jane Doyle reported that the Registry of Motor Vehicles has partnered with a private agency to reinstate the RMV reminder service which informs people when their auto registration or license renewal is due. This service can only be initiated "online" and she would like to get the word out to the "senior" population. Sue Doherty will advertise this in the COA September newsletter, which is mailed to every household in Lunenburg which has a person sixty years of age or older living there.

My Senior Center Software: Doreen reported that the Eagle House Senior Center will be purchasing "My Senior Center" software. The computerized system will allow visitors to the senior center to sign in using a simple swipe card which is kept on their keychain. The system will take the place of the "STAR" system which is used to track statistics for the state. Doreen will be using formula grant funds to purchase the equipment, which is allowed by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

Sub Committee Reports: There were no Sub Committee reports for this meeting.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence to be read at this meeting.

General Discussion:

Doreen informed the board that Liturgical Press called and requested use of the Eagle House to do phone solicitations to area businesses to advertise in the Council on Aging newsletter. She refused this request but told them that they could stop in while they are working in the area, for coffee, lunch etc.

Olive Coburn came into the meeting with a gift of an electric paper shredder which she donated to the senior center.

Mary Lynn Conrad said that she met with former COA board member, Gloria O'Brien and that she is doing well.

Pete Lincoln asked the board to continue the search for a new COA board member to fill the eleventh spot. He also requested to Doreen that she contact the local cable access station and ask them to update the senior center information which is taped once a month.

Doreen was asked when the intern from Fitchburg University would be arriving. Doreen informed the members that she will not be getting an intern this year due to time restraints in her schedule.

Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All approved, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10AM

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Doherty, Administrative Assistant